

COMING EVENTS IN AURORA

CONTINUING

Aurora Farmers' Market every Saturday morning at the Temperance Street parking lot until Thanksgiving. Free space is available for non-profit groups. Contact Nigel Kean at 905-751-0790.

Until September 30, water regulations are in effect in Aurora. Watering is permitted from 6 to 10 a.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. for even numbered addresses on even numbered days and odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days. For further information call 905-727-3123 ext. 4240.

Aurora Community Garden has plots available to grow fruits and vegetables on Allaura Boulevard. For more information call York Region Food Network at 905-967-0372.

Aurora Zen Meditation Group has resumed sitting every Monday evening at Healing Hands Wellness Centre on Wellington Street East at 7.30 p.m.

Weekly barbecues will be held from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday in the Norma Jean Legge Room of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Call 905-726-4767 for more information.

Aurora Agricultural Society (organizer of the Aurora Fair & Horse Show) meets on the second Tuesday of every second month, at 6.30 p.m., at the Aurora Community Centre. New members welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6773 or info@aurorafair.ca, or visit www.aurorafair.ca.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members welcome. For further information, call 905-841-1352.

On the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon, a satellite constituency office for Vaughan/King/Aurora MPP Greg Sorbara will be open in the councillors' lounge at the Town Hall. Call 1-877-880-6770 for information.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street (south of Wellington). For more information, call 905-830-9205.

Masons' Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at The Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee club at 9 a.m., lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080.

Gamblers Anonymous, every Tuesday night, Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, 7.30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night. Aurora Legion, 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women has monthly meetings at Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church with a variety of speakers. There is also a selection of interest groups. Contact Beverley 905-727-2151.

Dancing at the Legion, 8 p.m. every Friday night.

Bid Euchre at the Legion, 1 p.m. every third Sunday.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

Probus Club of Aurora's guest speaker at this month's meeting is Steven Falk, representing the Steven Lewis Foundation. He will speak on "Easing the Pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa". Club meets at the Aurora Legion the second Wednesday of every month, beginning at 10 a.m.

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents Dick Smith. Syncona Caribana is in the air! Experience the warm, sway of music from the Caribbean with Dick Smith, one of the founders of Caribana and lead drummer from Toronto's Lion King. 7 to 9 p.m.

Theatre Aurora presents the musical "The Fantasticks" at the Factory Theatre continuing August 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. Call the theatre at 905-727-3669 for ticket information.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

Barbecue with Rick and Susan at the Aurora Legion. 6 p.m. \$6 per person. For further information, call 905-727-9932.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

Doors Open Aurora provides an opportunity to visit various buildings and businesses in Aurora including the Railway Station, Baldwin's Mill, Hillary House, St. Andrew's College, Trinity Anglican Church and The Auroran. For more information see page 8 or call 905-726-4762.

Newmarket-Aurora Conservative Party of Canada 2nd annual picnic at Newmarket's Fairy Lake from 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents "Appreciate our Canadian Forces" Concert. Hear the Royal Canadian Artillery Band and the Air Force 400 Squadron Pipes, in a military show you won't forget. 7 to 9 p.m.

Join the Aurora Seniors for a cruise of the Toronto Harbourfront with a barbecue lunch. Bus will leave the Community Centre at 9:30 a.m. and return about 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$72 for members and \$77 for non-members. Register at the Seniors' Centre.

Game Day at Hillary House, presented by the Aurora Historical Society, for children. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission, at \$7, includes crafts, stories, games and a snack. Call 905-727-8991 for more information.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

Nordic Walking session. Aurora Family Leisure Complex beginning at 9.15 a.m. and continuing until 10.15 a.m. Call 905-726-4764 to sign up.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

Marie and Gordon Barnes host the 3rd Annual Tomato Tasting at 11 Catherine Avenue from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine. The \$10 ticket price - only 200 will be sold - is a donation to the Aurora Community Arboretum. Tickets are available at Mary's Flower Shop, 15210 Yonge St., at Injoy, 15263 Yonge St. and on Saturday mornings at the Aurora Farmers' Market.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Town of Aurora 2006 Summer Concerts in the Town Park presents the ultimate Janis Joplin tribute experience. Join the party at this final summer concert, with a tribute to this great singer. 7 to 9 p.m.

Party time at Hillary House, presented by the Aurora Historical Society, for children. 1 to 4 p.m. Admission, at \$7, includes crafts, stories, games and a snack. Call 905-727-8991 for more information.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

Chuckwagon dinner and dance at the Aurora Legion. 6 p.m. \$12 per person. For further information call 905-727-9932.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

The last yard waste collection for the season. Yard waste must be put out to the curb by 7 a.m. and be in brown kraft paper bags or clean, open, rigid,

reusable containers clearly identified as yard waste. For more information call 905-727-3123 ext. 3447.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Aurora Public Library, in partnership with Aurora Cable Internet, presents "Internet Explorer and Outlook Express", the first of a 10-part monthly series of free computer workshops. Magna Room, 7 p.m. Register online, at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Aurora Historical Society Candlelight Tour of Homes.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Probus Club of Aurora's guest speaker at this month's meeting is Diana Baggett. Club meets at the Aurora Legion the second Wednesday of every month, beginning at 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Aurora Public Library hosts a free "creative writing workshop" led by local author and instructor, Marnie Maguire. Marjorie Andrews Room. Limited seating. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Theatre Aurora opens its 49th season with the comedy "Educating Rita" at the Factory Theatre. Other productions in the fall/winter line up include "Crazy for You", "Dr. Cook's Garden" and "Blythe Spirit".

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

An evening with Katherine Govier hosted by the Aurora Public Library. She will read from her book "Three Views of Crystal Water", followed by the sale and signing of the book. Magna Room, 7 p.m. Pre-register at the adult information desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Official Opening of the State Farm Insurance Canadian Headquarters Office Complex on Wellington Street East, near Highway 404. Entrance off Leslie Street.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

York Regional Police Male Chorus host the 14th annual 'In Harmony With The Community' concert at the St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Newmarket. Concert features police choirs from Halton and Durham Regions and York Regional Police Male Chorus. Guest community choirs will be York Region Children's Chorus and 'Vivace' from Newmarket. Tickets are \$10. Call 905-727-9676 to order.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Celebrate Business Excellence in Aurora hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church will feature Rev. Canon Tim Elliott performing "Two by Eight", a selection of inspirational jazz by one of the pioneers of incorporating jazz into sacred space. For ticket information call the church office at 905-727-6101.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Aurora Seniors travel to the Stratford Festival for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical "South Pacific" with lunch included for \$107 for members and \$112 for non-members. Call 905-726-4767 to register.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Enjoy "High Society" at the Shaw Festival with lunch at Betty's Restaurant with the Aurora Seniors. Cost is \$96 for members and \$101 for non-members. Call 905-726-4767 to register.

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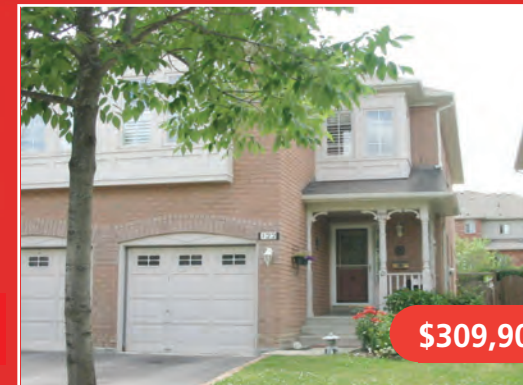
Stunning Augusta Model with wonderful views front & back over ClubLink Golf Course! Terrific floor plan with big kitchen open to family rm.! Great layout on 2nd floor with 4 bedrms., 3 bathrms! Fin. walkout basement adds great space! Pool-sized lot!

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PROUD TO BE LIVING AND WORKING IN AURORA



Six-year-old Daniel Farrell of Aurora was the winner of this painting after the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) held a draw earlier this summer. Because of the paperwork involved, SOYRA decided not to have a raffle during the fourth annual Library Art Show, rather it asked if visitors were willing to make a donation. Every visitor was given a slip of paper on which they could enter their name. At the end of the show a name was pulled and the winner would get the above oil painting done by Bob Garden, a long-time member of SOYRA. Daniel's mother Janice, looks on as the artist makes the presentation. The Library Art Show is held annually during The World's Longest Street Festival in June. Artists pay a hanging fee, which is donated to the Aurora Public Library, together with a percentage of the sales and donations from the public.

Auroran photo by Ron Wallace

Parking restriction softened

It is possible to beat City Hall if you have patience and perseverance to keep trying as Ray Nicolini of Hair Thoughts located on Wellington Street East has.

For the past several years he has been seeking some relief from the parking ban in front of his place of business.

The problem of parking in the vicinity of the Yonge/Wellington intersection in Aurora has been ongoing for years.

By July, 1989, council decided to assist in reducing congestion at the intersection by banning parking for approximately 75 metres from the intersection on both sides of Yonge and Wellington Streets.

Merchants were quick to object claiming the ban would not only kill local business but encourage drivers to race through the intersection.

They also questioned if council's priority was to support local business people who pay taxes or provide quick passage for commuters and others passing through town.

After listening to the businessmen, council recommended a compromise of a lesser distance for the proposed No Stopping zone and one hour parking for the remainder of the suggested distance.

But traffic problems at the intersection continued and in 1998 the region imposed parking restrictions on Wellington Street during the morning and evening peak hours which brought objections from the businessmen.

The parking restriction signs were posted without any advance notice to Aurora council, staff or the shopkeepers.

In April, 1998, Aurora Council asked that the regional bylaw imposing the parking restrictions in front of the business places be repealed, but the region refused.

In March this year Nicolini appeared before the Traffic Safety Advisory Board (TSAB) to repeat his complaints about the traffic restrictions.

He asked that the one hour limit be increased to two hours as many municipalities permitted two hour parking in the downtown area.

After receiving a staff report, the TSAB agreed and suggested the recommendation be forwarded to regional council for approval, as Wellington Street is a regional road.

At the last regional council meeting, members endorsed a recommendation that two hour parking on Wellington Street be approved as requested.



Nigel Kean
for
Mayor
905-751-0790

Kean for change

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Poor Richard

Park concerts still popular decades later

*Going back in memories,
Is the privilege of old age;
Some are good, some bad,
It's like turning another page!*

- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Concerts in the Town Park have continued over the years since the early 1970s.

At that time the concerts were partially funded by a grant from the Music Performance Fund created and financed by the recording industry and obtained through the cooperation of the Toronto Musicians' Association.

My kid brother, Jack, was a member of the association as he had organized and led the Jack Denton Orchestra.

His name was Jack Denton Illingworth, but Illingworth was much too long to use.

He played at various Toronto dance spots including Casa Loma, the Old Mill and at the Seabreeze, an outdoor dance pavilion at Sunnyside.

In addition he played at the Jubilee Pavilion in Oshawa, as well as a variety of other spots.

I heard about the fund from him as he was a regular performer at the Toronto concerts as the city used the fund extensively for summer concerts in various parks, which were very well attended.

If Toronto could do it, there was no reason Aurora couldn't.

As a result Aurora submitted an application to the Musicians' Association, which was accepted and Aurora became the first small town to take advantage of the fund to sponsor concerts.

The concerts were held in the Band Shell of the Town Park, originally on a Sunday evening with an audience of 400 to 500 people sitting on blankets and deck chairs with more sitting in their cars or on the verandahs of neighbouring homes.

Later the night was changed to Wednesday as the Sunday night crowds had started to dwindle and the change of night to mid-week brought back the crowds.

It was in 1972 when the Music in the Park series got underway with Ron Bagnato and his big band of 16 musicians featured.

The second concert featured the nine-piece Jack Denton Orchestra.

It was not widely known at the time that the orchestra belonged to then Mayor Dick Illingworth's kid brother as there might have been howls of conflict of interest.

But I had nothing to do with the selection of the performers as the bands were arranged by the Toronto Musicians Association.

Not only that, but I missed the concert due to other town commitments.

The 1972 season ended with Aurora's Ross Sully Orchestra taking the final bow.

On July 8, 1973, the famous 411 Squadron RCAF Band under the direction of Flying Officer Bernie Clark was featured.

The following week it was the sweet music of the Jack Denton Orchestra once again.

In 1977 one of the featured performers was the 15-member Ken Stanley Orchestra which took the audience down the big band memory lane with such favourites as "In the Mood", "String of Pearls", "Two O'Clock Jump" and many more.

Music in the park has continued over the years featuring a wide variety of entertainers.

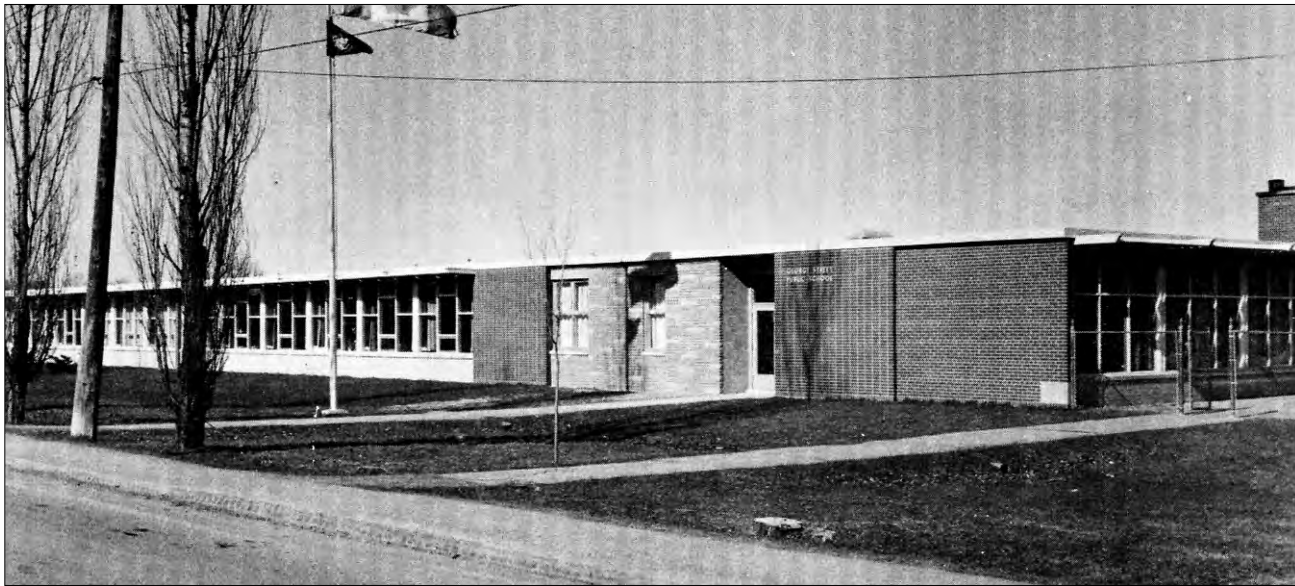
The concerts are now held on Wednesday nights rather than the former Sunday night and are well attended with more local groups being featured.

The Concerts-in-the-Park has returned this year on Wednesday nights and will continue through to August 23rd when the ultimate Janice Joplin tribute will wind up the season.

On August 9th, it's Dick Smith and Syncona with the music of the Caribbean, and on August 16th, it's Appreciation of Our Canadian Forces Concert featuring the Royal Canadian Artillery Band and the Pipes and Drums of 400 Squadron.

Whether it's a Sunday night or a Wednesday, it's a wonderful way to relax for a couple of hours from the cares and the woes of the everyday world and get recharged for the days ahead.

Go back in memories to the quieter times of former days when band concerts at the village band shell were a common occurrence, as people gathered to enjoy the music and meet their friends and neighbours.



It was impossible to use the same angle as the top photo of George Street School, taken in 1967, because of the foliage. Standing in the same spot caused one major problem: you couldn't see the school. However, it's still there, so to prove it we took the bottom shot from a different angle.

Bottom photo by Ron Wallace

Letters to the Editor

The story behind Aurora's historic "Hartman House"

To the editor,

I was very disappointed to learn that Aurora's "Hartman House" couldn't be saved from demolition.

It is the only house in Aurora with a Georgian façade with a centre door, flanked by single windows and five windows at the second storey level.

It has a long history as home to the John Hartman family in 1807.

On the diagonal corner to the location of the house was a modest plank schoolhouse dating back to 1837.

Only recently it was learned that this same building had been moved to a lot immediately west of the former Baldwin Mill, now Baldwin's Restaurant, and has been designated as an historic site.

A fine Victorian red brick school replaced it as what was locally known as Hartman's Corners.

This building has been demolished for a housing development along with the two rows of towering Spruce trees that sheltered it.

The farm, homesteaded by John and Mary Hartman in 1816, stretched from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue on the south side of Wellington Street.

His son, Joseph, purchased 200 acres at Leslie Street and the Aurora Sideroad (Wellington Street) and married Mary Anne Cosford in 1843. She might well have lived in the Red House at Cosford's Corners, but that's another story.

Joseph, who was a

teacher, embarked on a political career and became the first Reeve of Whitchurch Township in 1850 and in 1853 Warden of York County and later a Member of Parliament, but his political life was short lived as he died in November, 1859, at the age of 38.

But all is not lost as a painting was done of the Hartman House for the recent Aurora Seniors Group Art Show and Sale in the Our Kind of Town category.

Members of the Hartman family or officials of Aurora Toyota may be interested in acquiring this painting and it may be purchased by phoning artist, Catherine Glavin, at 905-833-5523.

**Dorothy Clark McClure
Aurora**

Jeers to litterers in Aurora

Open letter to Dick Illingworth's "Bouquets and Brickbats"

I have some thoughts for cheers and jeers on this subject.

"Cheers" to those responsible citizens who actually use an in-car litter bag.

They collect their fast

food wrappers, pop cans, coffee cups or similar items and properly dispose of them on arrival at the next available waste can.

"Jeers" to those inconsiderates who toss or dump all types of litter out their car doors into parking lots and our local streets.

This nasty approach

may keep one's personal domain tidy, but have they ever considered what they are doing to the Aurora community they call home?

P.S. Maybe Scott Johnston could make an appropriate cartoon on this subject.

**Mike Gough
Aurora**

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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

What to look for in a candidate

Many trees have been felled in the study of democratic renewal and re-invigorating both our electoral process and our public institutions.

There have been a myriad of reports, studies, focus groups and polling done on this issue.

But whether or not we have good government fundamentally comes down to the occupants of the elected seats.

We don't necessarily need to be governed by the best educated or by those with the highest incomes.

In fact, if you look at the experience of our contemporary leaders, they come from many different backgrounds.

The current Prime Minister is an economist by training, while the last one was a millionaire businessman.

The premier of Ontario is a lawyer while the premier of Alberta was a television news reporter.

We do need, however, to elect people who represent and reflect the best qualities of our community.

We need people who truly are of our community, in our community and for our community.

They need to put the Town's interest ahead of their own narrowly defined self-interest.

And the people we elect should have as their goal simply quality of, and selflessness of service, rather than longevity of service.

Our council needs people from all walks of life, who have enthusiasm and energy to burn, and who, although possessing strong opinions, are at the same time consensus builders, who work hard and get things done.

This fall when I am looking for someone to support I begin the process by reviewing the brochures or simple pamphlets produced by the respective candidates.

I look for information on four broad areas; education, professional/vocational background, volunteer endeavours and accomplishments and the issues and answers that the candidate has identified as important.

We should be looking at the whole person.

For instance, someone might not have much of a formal education, but their professional/vocational or volunteer accomplishments would make up for it.

Or their stance on three or four important issues may be particularly compelling.

Regarding education: - Do they have any post secondary training? If so, in what area? Do they have any specialized knowledge, i.e. energy, public safety, health, social work, education?

What have they done in their private life? What type of career have they had. Do they belong to any professional organizations?

Have they participated in any volunteer activities? If so, for how long and in what capacity?

Are they or have they been in the past a coach, referee or administrator for any of the local sports organizations?

If not currently a member of council, have they attended any of the public council meetings?

Do they sit on any of the community committees? Are they part of any ratepayer group?

Have they taken the time to write letter(s) to the editor on a particular issue in the past? What was the issue that made them write?

And finally, what are the key issues that they are seeking office on?

The brochure does not necessarily need to be expensive or ornate, but it should be visually appealing to the eye and should attempt to provide a balanced view of the candidate.

For those who are seeking office for the first time, spend time on making the brochure/pamphlet a good one.

For many candidates it is the first point of contact with the voting public, and as my mom always said, first impressions are important.

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Cathy's Corner



Just wondering...

Do you ever just wonder about things? I do...

I can't help wondering if anybody has considered adding stop signs, speed humps and pylons to Aurora's Coat of Arms...

Since former mayors tend to come back as councillors, and since Council Meetings are held at night...would it be fair to say that Aurora Council has "recurring night mayors"? Just wondering...

The next term of Council will be FOUR years. The last term of Council has been FOR YEARS...and years and years.

I wonder if we'll notice a difference...

Councillor Nigel Kean was the first to declare his intention to run for mayor in the next election. Does that make him the keenest candidate? Just wondering...

If fewer than 30 per cent of voters vote, then why do more than 70 per cent complain? Isn't it a wonder?

Why do they call it "rush hour" when it lasts all day? Just wondering ...

If Dick Illingworth retires, who will get to do the

weekly "Bouquets and Brickbats"?

Hmmm...I really wonder about that...

If speed humps are a "traffic calming" measure, how come they irritate drivers so much? Just wondering...

If all the incumbents run for mayor, will the election be dysfunctional? Just wondering...

Is Betty Pederson's show on Aurora Cable called "Council in Action" or "Council Inaction"? Sometimes, I wonder...

If Councillor Bill Hogg gets the most votes in the next election, will he be accused of "hogging" the votes? Just wondering...

Have you ever wondered why Aurora Road is called "Aurora Road" everywhere except in the centre of Aurora?

And why is it called a "sideroad" when it goes right through the middle of town?

Is it because it's only called "Aurora Road" on each "side" of "Wellington Street"? I wonder who Wellington Street is named after ...

When Councillor Evelyn Buck writes letters to

The Aurora to complain about her fellow councillors, is she "bucking" the system? Just wondering...

Why don't council members who have streets named after them live on those streets?

I wonder if any of them ever have...and is Councillor Phyllis Morris the only councillor who lives on a street named after another (former) member of council?

Why is it that holding the Canada Day celebration in a smaller park gets more people, and moving it to a bigger park gets fewer people? Isn't it a wonder?

Is "Old Yonge" Street an oxymoron? Just wondering...

When you see a sign that says "Road Works", do you ever get the urge to roll down your window and shout, "No, it doesn't!"

I do. And sometimes, I stop wondering and give in to the urge.

And then other people start to wonder...

Cathy Vrancic welcomes e-mail at:
laughingmatters@aci.on.ca

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

 **BOUQUETS** to Karyn McGibbon, her twin sister Julie, and friends MacKenzie Grayson, Eric Abel and Donato Bisognoi of Aurora on being selected from among hundreds of dancers to be part of the 18-member Canadian national team to participate in the World Dance Championships in Germany in November.

 **BRICKBATS** to the Harper government for their slow, confused and initially ineffective evacuation of Canadians from war-torn Lebanon in a conflict with Israel which Harper supported as a measured response.

 **BOUQUETS** to David Tomlinson and the many volunteers who planted 10,000 acorns along the East Holland River Valley last fall as most are growing well. Mighty oaks from little acorns grow!

 **BRICKBATS** to the operators of the Region's Viva Transit which operates on an honour system that permits gangs of teenagers to use it as their personal shuttle, never buying a ticket and using it at will and drivers claiming they can't do anything about it.

 **BOUQUETS** to Councillor Evelyn Buck for suggesting that the region be approached to block off one lane of the St. John's Sideroad on Sundays as they did for the official opening of the roadway to allow citizens to park and use the lookout posts of the new boardwalk the town provided to view the wildlife at McKenzie Marsh.

 **BRICKBATS** to those who let Lake Ontario become so polluted that on the hot summer days the 10 Toronto area beaches were full but the lake was empty due to high E.coli bacteria counts. Disgraceful!

 **BOUQUETS** to the member of council who suggested the audience be polled at council and committee meetings as to agenda item of interest to them, so that it can be pulled and discussed without them having to sit through a long, boring meeting. The suggestion should be included in the procedural bylaw.

 **BRICKBATS** to Health Minister George Smitherman for dismissing a report from the College of Physicians and Surgeons indicating that only one in 10 family doctors is accepting new patients, down from 38 per cent five years ago. What planet does he live on?

 **BOUQUETS** to the council of Whitchurch-Stouffville for becoming the first municipality in York Region to introduce a cultural policy which identifies the cultural program needs for the next 10 years. Aurora has a Cultural Centre and an Arts and Cultural Fund but doesn't have a cultural policy.

 **BRICKBATS** to those in Ottawa for not designating responsibility for the National War Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa as no one will accept responsibility for it. Assign it to Veteran Affairs and make them responsible!

 **BOUQUETS** to the Town of Newmarket for carrying out an energy audit and adopting a energy retrofit program to reduce gas emissions that adds up to \$160,000 a year in savings at a cost of \$1.6 million for the energy program.

 **BRICKBATS** to whomever was responsible for leaving the pile of debris near a highway overpass and used by a 13-year-old young offender to drop a large piece of concrete from the overpass crashing through a car's windshield and seriously injuring the driver. The debris is still there waiting for another accident.

Letters to the Editor

The new owner could modify Hartman house

To the editor,

The eleventh hour is upon us and now everyone is getting excited about the fate of another exemplary piece of Aurora architecture poised for the wrecker's ball.

While I find myself in complete agreement with all the passionate arguments as to what should or could

be done with the Hartman house, I must remind myself and others that really what we need is a total attitude change in our society.

One can no more expect Ms. Stronach or Vic Priestly, for that matter, to show any more compassion about historical preservationism than the present owner.

If he (Toyota Dealer) can-

not see any benefits to preservation of an historic building and utilizing the value added to his venture in retaining it, why should anyone else?

We, as citizens, shouldn't have to create preservation societies or historic corridors that have limited powers.

We should be proud to

occupy historic buildings and even prouder to display and talk about them.

The sense of being in an historic property thinking about the lives and dreams of its past inhabitants should be a privilege.

Anyone who moves into a neighbourhood or historic dwelling with plans to radically change or destroy it should give their collective heads a shake.

Tearing down an historic building tells me that those people have never built anything in their lives.

If the building does not fit your future plans, then go to the next suitable steel and glass property and leave the historic one to those who appreciate it.

Ownership, as argued by some, does not give anyone the right to affect those living around them.

Perhaps the Toyato dealer, who I am sure thinks of himself as a model citizen, should put a coffee machine in one corner and his staff offices in another of historic Hartman house.

Any who might drive by will not be so entralled by the bold use of historic architecture they see, but more by the the flashy neon sign enticing them to buy a Toyota at 2.9 per cent financing.

Cathy's Corner column nailed it on the head

To Cathy Vrancic, Cathy's Corner

While you may have been using humour, your point about stop signs, speed bumps/humps was, oh, so very true.

Unfortunately town council has in its infinite wisdom decided not to listen to me about multi-way stops where they are not needed nor expected. You have the unique opportunity

(if your family does talk shop at home) to try and persuade one of the council members that maybe the town should not be making it so easy to install multiways stops and that maybe the town should take a good hard look at the existing stops.

The town's traffic expert seems to like playing loose with the stats towards putting stop signs in; things like using 10 hours worth of

stats and ignoring the slowest two hours of the 10 to get his eight-hour stats, why?

Because policy lets him do so.

This is exactly what he did re the stop sign on Gurnett/Kennedy East two years ago.

The old adage that you can't get there from here must have been written with Aurora in mind, because everywhere you turn there are senseless stop signs, speed bumps/humps and anything else that can bollocks up the traffic in Aurora.

I don't always agree with what you put in your columns, but I do read most of them.

We're selling out country's resources

To the editor,

I cannot stress enough the current wholesale loss of some of our major resource plants.

As each week goes by we see incursions, moving from resource to high tech to energy, etc.

I am thinking now of our tar sands operation in Alberta.

Many envious eyes are attracted here, and huge interests are buying control.

The beat goes on at Inco, Falconbridge, ATI and many other lesser known zinc and copper mines all over the country.

The thing that galls me is the total complacency by all the political parties and governments.

Just this week a national daily came out with concerns that if all these deals transpire we will become

peons in our own country, working for our daily bread with no input or governance over our leading high flying companies.

I can recall, it was not that many years ago that people went to jail for flipping apartments.

Right now buying into condos and flipping them is blasé and commonplace.

Many investment funds, mutual funds and trust funds are certainly involved in this pursuit.

So what can we do about this sickly onslaught?

Write your MPs and express your concern about the weakening of our economy which is sure to follow along with our loss of ownership.

Tell them they are using our bank savings to sell us out completely.

Ben Kestein
Aurora

Dave Watson
Aurora

Mark Warburton
Aurora



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P02032CN 04/02

Town still waiting for Ministry report

During the fall of 2003 and again in March, 2004, an investigation revealed that sections of Tannery Creek through Aurora showed significant pollution with metals and chemicals likely to harm aquatic life.

The investigation found high levels of chromium and arsenic at a spot downstream that would appear to place the source of contamination at the former Collis Leather plant on Tyler Street.

Collis Leather operated the plant from 1912 until March, 1988, and it was believed that animal hides had been pickled in salt and sulfuric acid and soaked in chromium salt.

Aurora Council commissioned Earth Tech Canada to carry out a more extensive investigation and in June, 2004, received a report regarding surface water and sediment contamination sampling of Tannery Creek in the vicinity of the former Collis plant.

A copy of the report was sent to the Ministry of the Environment with a request that the Ministry exercise its jurisdiction to require the property owner, Maple Leaf Foods, to conduct the necessary on site investigation to fully identify the scope

and extent of the contamination.

Copies of the report were also forwarded to Maple Leaf Foods, Region of York Health Department, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Environment Canada and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Council also recommended a public information session be held to inform property owners abutting Tannery Creek downstream from the contaminated area.

Later in the month, Ian Kerr, representing Maple Leaf Foods, appeared before council to present a technical report relating to the town's Earth Tech study and an investigation carried out by their consultant Barenco Environmental Engineering.

The Barenco report included information about historical land uses upstream and surrounding area to determine possible historical causes for the contamination.

It was pointed out the town's study had concentrated primarily around the former Collis Leather plant, whereas the Barenco study noted several other industries had been located along Tannery Creek which could

have contributed to the contamination.

Council directed that the Barenco report be forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment with a request that the Ministry complete its investigation.

Meanwhile, in January, 2004, town officials discovered a fuel leak near the Petro Canada gas station on the Industrial Parkway South and asked Petro Canada and the Ministry of the Environment to investigate.

An on-site investigation carried out by Petro Canada found a mixture of gasoline and fuel oil in the area of their underground storage tanks and along their eastern property line.

Further investigation by the town found diesel oil in a nearby hydrant valve resulting in the hydrant being sealed off. This resulted in Petro Canada extending its investigation outside their property line into the street allowance.

By May, 2004, Petro Canada had installed monitoring wells, staff was collecting and evaluating information and council was advised a report would be submitted when all the information had been collected.

In October, 2004, a staff

report was received expressing concern about the extent of the contamination which council endorsed and directed to the Ministry of the Environment.

In both cases council and the Environment Advisory Committee requested updates on the Ministry's investigation and as no response had been received, council directed that follow up action be taken for the Tannery Creek contamination and the Petro Canada leakage.

As a result the advisory committee recommended and council endorsed a request that a Ministry representative appear before council to provide an update.

It was also recommended that staff hold a public information session as previously requested to which staff replied they didn't have enough information to hold a public meeting.

Time passed and in January, 2006, council made another request to the Ministry of the Environment for information regarding the Tannery Creek contamination to allow staff to prepare a comprehensive report and hold a public information meeting.

In March this year council was advised the Ministry of the Environment was

actively reviewing the Petro Canada file and hoped to have a report by the middle or end of April.

The May "council pending" list status report indicates that no report had been received from the region's medical officer of health and no response had been received from the Ministry.

The status report does not list the Petro Canada leakage so it could be assumed the Ministry report had been received but if this

happened it was never presented to council in open session.

The public is entitled to know the extent of the contamination and if a public health hazard exists, why it was so difficult to obtain information from the Ministry of the Environment and government agencies and why the issues were allowed to drag on for so long without corrective action.

Lots of questions but no answers.

Internet records death of common sense

ED. NOTE: The following was shamelessly lifted from the internet last week.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Mr. Common Sense.

Mr. Sense had been with us for many years.

No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such value lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge).

His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reminding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Mr. Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to admin-

ister Aspirin to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot.

She spilled a bit in her lap, and was awarded a huge financial settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

He is survived by two stepbrothers; My Rights and Ima Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on; if not, join the majority and do nothing.



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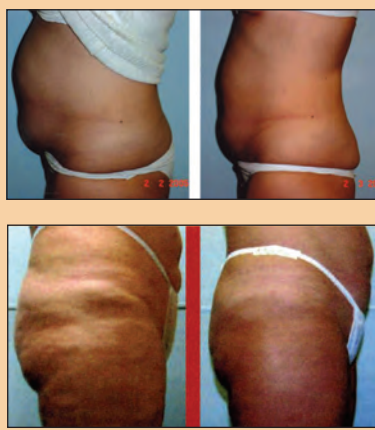
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1. Aurora Arboretum



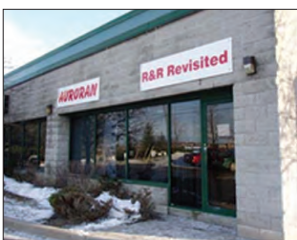
2. Farmers Market



3. Railway Station



4. United Church



5. The Auroran



6. Baldwin's



7. Caruso's



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8. Commport Communications



9. Hillary House



10. Oakland Hall



11. St. Andrew's College



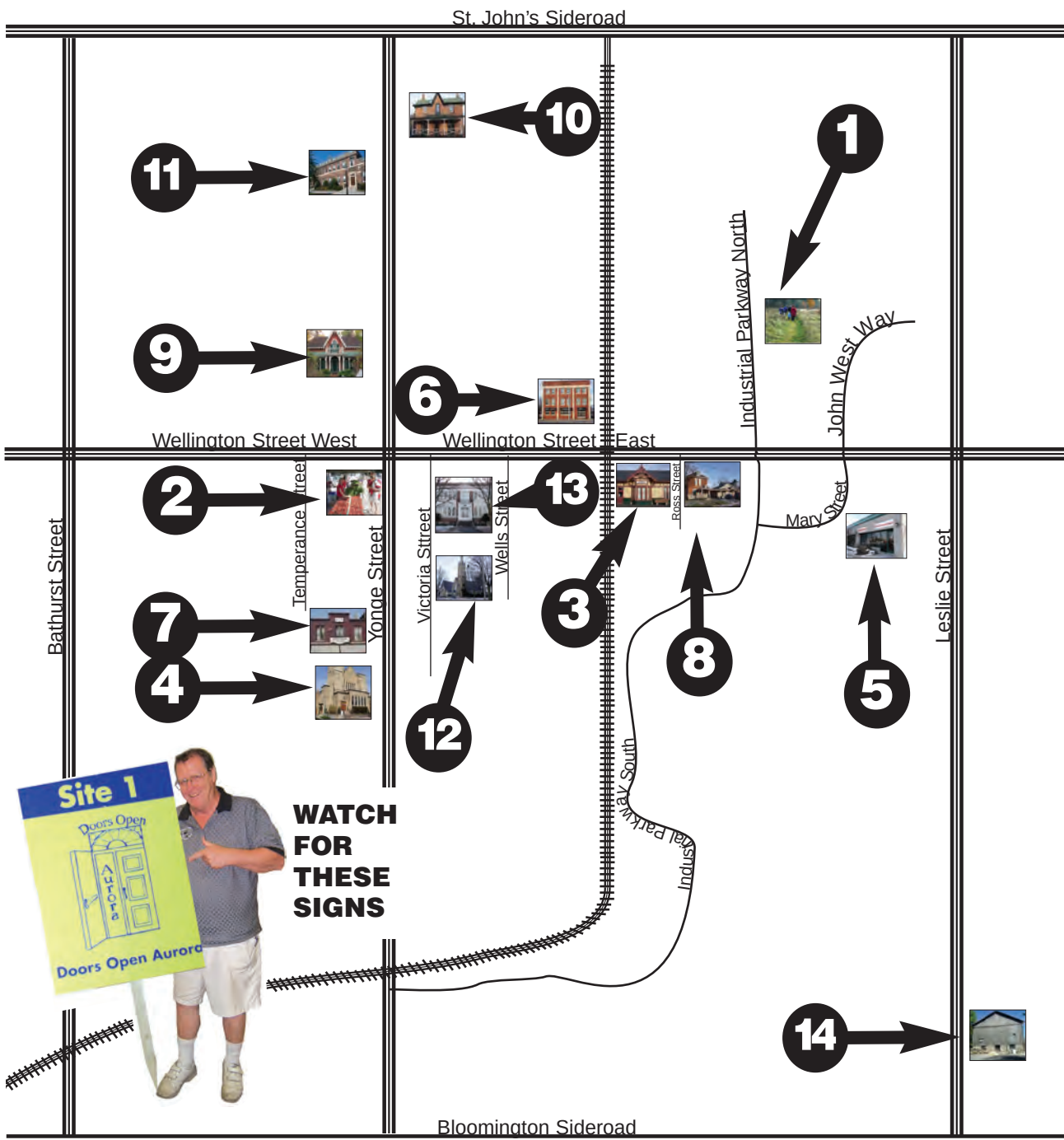
12. Trinity Anglican Church



13. Wells Street School



14. Wilton Barn



Where are these places?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| 1) 135 Industrial Parkway North | 10-4 | 8) 3 Ross Street | 10-4 |
| 2) Temperance Street Parking Lot | 8-noon | 9) 15372 Yonge Street | 10-4 |
| 3) 121 Wellington Street East | 10-4 | 10) 16003 Yonge Street | noon-4 |
| 4) 15186 Yonge Street | 10-1 | 11) 15800 Yonge Street | 10-4 |
| 5) 75 Mary Street, Unit 3 | 10-4 | 12) 79 Victoria Street | 10-4 |
| 6) 124 Wellington Street East | 10-4 | 13) 60 Wells Street | 10-4 |
| 7) 15210 Yonge Street | 10-4 | 14) 13831 Leslie Street | 10-4 |

Baldwins



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The Fifth Annual Milgate Place Golf Tournament this year zeroed in on the “best/worst” hat. Last year, the group from apparently Aurora’s most fun street, sought honours in the tackiest costume category. Participating this year were back row, left to right, Mike Duckworth, Bob Kerr, Cheryl Duckworth, Fiona Gamble, Craig Sweeting, Bob Gamble, Cathy Kean, Tracy St. Germain, Ray Shower, Brian Burns, Cindy Tait, John St. Germain, and Liam Palmer. In the front row, left to right, are Kimberly Kerr, Sue Deacon, Margaret Burns, Nigel Kean, Stacey Levitt, Julie Shower, Andrea McGee, Julie Simard, Pete Deacon and Steve Levitt. Judges are still trying to pick a winner.



Members of Aurora’s crack lifeguard squad turned the new swimming pool into a western scene recently holding what they called an h2o rodeo. Participating in the event were, front row, left to right, Tricia Venton and Lindsay Botten; middle row, left to right, Becky Pearson, Taryn Orava, Megan Smith, Amanda Allen, Jessica Lastuk and Shane Eickmann; top row, left to right, Mike Osuszek, Michael Peirce, Jenn Dwyer, Michael Smith, Courtney Laws, Morley Driedger, Connor O’Grady and Gail Petrossian. The group was raising money for the Red Cross, but results were not available at press time. New pool, opened recently as part of Aurora’s new recreation complex on Wellington Street East, has been heavily used by the

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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P046159CN 07/05



Aurora's Goodyear Peeewe Jays are shown here following their win over Georgetown recently. They are, top row, left to right, Rob Seguin (coach), Chris Palmer (coach), Chad MacKay, Ricky Evans, James Harkin, Mrs. Ghazarian (Goodyear sponsor), Shant Ghazarian (Goodyear sponsor), Amanda Cicchino, Doug Lindner (coach), Mike Ariganello (coach); bottom row, left to right, Gordon Turtle, Andrew Seguin, Kurtis Lindner, Campbell Duggan, Spencer Palmer, Billy Ferguson, Joe Ariganello and Eliot Harkin. Absent when the photo was taken were Eli Ayres, Reid Sisson, Brian Baran, Braedan Mackenzie and Andrew Welsman.

Goodyear Peeewe Jays triumph over Georgetown

Led by strong starting pitching from Campbell Duggan and lead-off hitting by Chad MacKay, the Aurora Goodyear Peeewe Jays Select team took a commanding 13-0 lead after three innings and hung on to defeat the Georgetown Eagles 15-12 at Town Park

in Aurora recently.

Georgetown mounted a steady comeback and got to within a run in the top of the sixth.

But Jays Kurtis Lindner and James Harkin scored in the bottom of the inning to give Harkin a three-run cushion heading into the

seventh, and he pitched a three-up, three-down inning, thanks to three ground ball outs to Andrew Seguin at second base.

Harkin also played solid shortstop, combining with Ricky Evans and Amanda Cicchino at first base for three outs.

Spencer Palmer collected two hits and contributed a key RBI in the home half of the sixth inning.

The Goodyear Jays head to Barrie on Thursday to start their York-Simcoe play-offs, followed by a tournament in Trenton on the weekend.

Has the Aurora anti-idling challenge been forgotten?

The campaign to stop motor vehicle idling was first introduced by a regional group known as Windfall EcoWorks, as a means of reducing smog.

At the time all regional municipalities except Aurora, Georgina and Vaughan were members of the Greater Toronto Clean Air Council.

In April, the York Region Environmental Alliance planned to expand its anti-idling challenge to other municipalities following the successful challenge partnership between Markham and Newmarket, the first in the region.

The Alliance received a \$20,000 grant from Environment Canada's Eco-Action Community Funding Program for the project.

Markham was successful in obtaining 1,628 pledges to Newmarket's 1,395 with Markham winning by 233 pledges.

The challenge reduced

idling and improved air quality in the region and between the two municipalities it was estimated that greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by 400 tonnes per year.

It was pointed out that idling an engine for just 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting it and many tailpipes are at the level of children's faces.

On average, Canadian motorists idle their vehicles five to 10 minutes per day and in the peak of winter this increases substantially.

By avoiding idling for at least five minutes a day, it was estimated motorists in Markham could, each day, collectively avoid wasting 10,000 litres of fuel worth more than \$7,500 as well as improving the environment.

As Richmond Hill was anxious to embark on the project, Aurora was asked to consider a challenge partnership with that town, and Aurora staff recom-

mended council use the Markham/Newmarket challenge as a model.

To be effective, the Challenge requires a councillor to champion the cause and funding would be required for promotional material.

In April, Councillor Phyllis Morris recommended the request be referred to a future general committee meeting to discuss possible costs and the possibility of finding a sponsor for the challenge.

In May, the Environmental Advisory Committee asked the Director of Public Works to investigate the installation of anti-idling information signs on town properties and in strategic locations around Aurora and report to a future committee meeting since committee members considered the anti-idling issue a priority.

A month later, the committee approved in principle the installation of anti-idling signage including both the town and committee logo on the signs. In addition, the Director of Public Works was authorized to work with the committee to look at using a portion of the Public Awareness Initiatives budget towards this project.

But that is as far as it has gone so far.

The Richmond Hill challenge to Aurora to enter into a competition between the two municipalities similar to that between Markham and Newmarket appears to have been forgotten as has any attempt to encourage motorists to improve the environment by reducing motorists idling their vehicles.

Perhaps the issue will resurface when council returns from its summer break August 22.

Temporary use sought at centre

The former seniors' centre on Victoria Street is empty until council makes a decision as to its status, after changing its mind to demolish it to make room for 15 parking spaces.

Colleen Howard appeared before council recently on behalf of the Providence Learning Centre to seek temporary space in the building until the group finds a permanent home.

She said they were currently using facilities in a residence but due to zoning problems have to vacate.

In response to a question as to how the agency is funded, she said the Learning Centre is a community-based non-profit organization primarily funded by fees paid by parents for children with problems under age 6.

A motion was made by Councillor Nigel Kean to refer the presentation to staff to arrange a short-term lease, if possible, which brought objections from Councillor Damir Vrancic.

He said council had previously advertised for community groups to submit an "Expression of Interest" for use of space in the former library and seniors' centre

under certain lease conditions and council couldn't make a decision.

While he appreciated the need for space by the Learning Centre there were other community groups in need and they should all be treated equally, he said.

Kean said the other groups had found space elsewhere and the building was currently vacant.

Questions were asked on what arrangements some groups were using the former library to which staff responded space is let on a lease or permit system.

Some groups sign a lease for the space on a year-to-year basis which is approved by council, however there is also a permit system which is used for occasional use such as a religious group using space on Sundays, which is approved by staff.

Kean's motion to refer to staff to develop a short-term lease was defeated by a 5-2 vote with Kean and Wendy Gaertner in support.

Councillors John West and Phyllis Morris were absent.

A subsequent motion to refer the request to staff for a report was adopted.

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Long history behind Aurora firefighters

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

With the merging of the Aurora and Newmarket fire departments into the Central York Fire Services with numerous full-time professional firefighters, it's hard to believe a volunteer fire brigade once protected Aurora.

That was even more evident recently when the official opening of Aurora's second fire station - the Fred Bolsby Fire Hall - was held at the site on Wellington Street East, as many nostalgic stories were recalled.

It was back in March, 1967, when Councillor Walt Davis, representing the town's fire committee, first broached the proposal of adding some full-time firefighters to its volunteer brigade.

The proposal came about as a result of a discussion about a \$370 contract for painting the interior of the Victoria Street fire hall.

The committee recommended the painting be delayed until a decision was made about full-time firefighters.

Council split 4-4 on a motion to defer the painting job, with Mayor Clarence Davis breaking the tie in favour of deferment.

At that time volunteer firefighters were the unsung heroes of the municipality.

They were on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to answer the fire bell.

All members of the brigade were volunteers with the exception of the Fire Chief.

Percy Barwick was such a volunteer and served with the Aurora brigade for 14 years.

In February, 1967, after fighting a fire at Slater's Mill in Vandorf, he returned to the fire hall and as he was joking with other firefighters, while taking off their gear, he collapsed and died.

He was 63 years of age. Later in 1967, Fire Chief Harry Jones announced his retirement after 47 years of service of which 25 years was as Fire Chief.

To replace him a compromise was reached between council and the brigade on the appointment of the new chief.

Until that time, volunteer firefighters voted for their chief.

The compromise was to the effect the fire committee would prepare a short list of three eligible candidates and have the volunteers select the chief from the list.

Gordon Burling was appointed chief.

In March, 1968, members of the volunteer brigade received a pay increase when the rate per call went up from \$5 to \$6.

The operating budget for that year was \$31,500.

Aurora increased the volunteer fire department from 24 to 30 in March, 1970.



Members of the Central York Fire Services presented a \$50,000 cheque to the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation last week, with the money earmarked for the ER-Trauma Room. Participating in the presentation were, left to right, Captain Gord Davidson, Jason Madigan, Neila Poscente from Southlake, Steve Johnson, Simon Day, Captain Art Bellar, Jason Dunkerly and Captain Dan Waters.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

The fire committee recommended the increase as some of the volunteers were on shift work, while others were commuting to Toronto.

There were demands for full-time firefighters at that time and it became an election issue for several elections.

Four volunteer firefighters with 137 years of service behind them retired in 1971.

They were Don McCluskey, Ken Rose, Rube Long and Frank Clubine.

In 1973, Stu Patrick, with 48 years' service, and Tom Rank, a 35-year veteran, retired.

By 1974 it started to become obvious that full-time firefighters were needed as the availability of citizens for volunteer fire services was becoming scarce and a number of young men were unable to get away from work and didn't wish to be tied down on weekends.

Fire Chief Burling recommended the hiring of two full-time firefighters.

In 1975, Norm Harrison retired after five years' service due to a move out of town.

About the same time council authorized the purchase of a new uniform for Second Captain Eric Eveleigh as his dress uniform was finally wearing out after 43 years of use by Eveleigh and others.

The uniform was offered to the Aurora Museum for display.

In May, 1976, Fire Chief Burling retired and Stu Wilson was appointed chief. He began as a volunteer firefighter in 1965.

In 1975, the volunteer brigade became the first fire-fighting unit in Ontario to take the St. John

Ambulance advanced first aid course as a group.

In March, 1977, council approved the hiring of its first full-time firefighter in addition to the chief.

This was done over the objection of Mayor George Timpson who argued the hiring should be part of the budget process.

Although the original request in 1974 had been for two full-time firefighters, the public safety committee and council settled for one and Doug Rose was hired as a third-class firefighter.

In April, 1978, Fire Chief Wilson and Firefighter Rose were commended by the Ontario Fire Marshal for their investigative work in tracing a gasoline leak to its source and taking corrective action.

The gasoline from a service station had leaked into the sewage system causing several businesses to be closed.

By June, 1979, Aurora's full-time Rose left the Aurora department to become the Fire Chief in Innisfil.

As a result veteran volunteer firefighter Fred Bolsby was hired to replace Rose as fire prevention officer.

A short time later council hired Ernie Roynance as the town's third full-time firefighter.

He moved out of town a short time later and Chuck Cowie, Jr., was appointed as a replacement.

Council approved the hiring of a fourth full-time firefighter in June, 1981, over the objections of Councillor Evelyn Buck.

She argued there were enough volunteers available and there was no need to hire additional full-time men.

In spite of her objections,

Dave Dixon, a volunteer since 1974, was hired.

By this time some of the veteran volunteers were retiring.

In December, 1980, Jack Oosterhuis had moved to Holland Landing after 10 years as a volunteer and shortly afterwards Ron "Tuck" Tulloch retired after 17 years' service.

In his 1982 annual report to council, Fire Chief Wilson stressed the need for more full-time firefighters to keep pace with the industrial, commercial and residential growth of the town.

By the end of 1989 in addition to Fire Chief Wilson and Deputy Chief Bolsby there were 12 full-time firefighters, who also acted as volunteers on off-duty hours and 14 volunteers.

He pointed out that the department's complement of four full-time staffers could not take a pumper truck out of the fire hall to respond to a fire until the volunteers started to arrive, because of lack of sufficient manpower.

Finally in June, 1995, it was announced that Aurora was on the verge of a 24-hour fire service.

Some councillors said fast food deliveries arrived faster than an after-hours fire truck.

The concept of a full-



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time fire service was unanimously approved by a town committee and was ratified by council on June 14, 1995.

At that time the fire department consisted of 13 full-time men who worked on duty shifts and 26 volunteer firefighters, including the 13 full-time who served as volunteers after normal working hours.

The fire hall was staffed from 8 a.m. until midnight, but no one was on duty after midnight or on weekends except for the volunteers who were paged at home.

With about 800 responses a year, a five-year average revealed that almost one-third of the calls occurred during non-staffing hours, and in many cases these fires were more serious than during staffing hours.

Experience indicated that the automatic call-back arrangement could result in the entire complement of 26 responding to small fires, while at other times a limited number of people responded to large-scale emergencies.

The town took \$40,000 from a reserve account to pay for three new firefighters

in the current year to bring the full-time complement to 16.

It was announced that taxpayers could expect a two per cent tax increase or about \$11 a year for the average household in 1996.

It was the beginning of the end of the dedicated volunteer firefighter who served efficiently and effectively over the years dating back to the early days of the village when the equipment was hand-pulled to the fires.

At a council meeting held December 11, 2001, the last five volunteer members of the Aurora Fire Department - Jim Bolsby, Marty Costoff, Paul Horton, Jerry Madaleno and Peter Ross - were presented with plaques as a token of thanks.

The presentation was not only for themselves, but for all brigade members past and present.

Effective January 1, 2002, the Aurora and Newmarket fire departments merged into the Central York Fire Services and the days of Aurora firefighters - full time and volunteer - had officially come to an end.

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Aurora's Isabel Brims, 9, holds her hair after it was shorn last week at Mane Saloon. Hair will be donated and used to make wigs for children suffering from cancer. Isabel has been letting her hair grow since she was five.



By BRIAN WARBURTON

I am delighted to announce that the patio furniture, for the deck overlooking the Arboretum, has arrived, in time for us to sit outside and enjoy the good senior life.

Enough good weather remains for us to enjoy this deck furniture!

And Enid Maize has said her final goodbyes while departing for Nova Scotia, where she has family, and has committed herself to remain retired.

In the short time she was associated with the Aurora seniors, she was instrumental in forming some of our members into a cohesive seniors' choir.

Enid's entry onto the Auroran stage of senior public life, created a powerful and positive impact and we will miss her.

She seized threads of opportunity and spun them into a tapestry of organizational accomplishment.

Luckily, we do have an accomplished and talented gentleman, Tom Rainsford, who will continue the work Enid began.

Thank you, Enid! You planted an idea and a choir started to sing!

Now it is time that will tell the story of the gift you left us, and every time the choir sings, we will be reminded of you.

For the many who have an interest in joining the choir, the season resumes in September, and membership is limited.

If you have an interest in singing in the choir, playing the piano or helping with administration, call the centre or visit to obtain further information. We are on Municipal Drive, and share parking with the Town Hall.

Among the activities of necessity that pervade the centre, is the work of administration that the members share with the Town of Aurora through Kelly Hamilton, the coordinator.

The seniors, through their Board of Directors, spend many hours meeting, plan-

ning and discussing current and future events, and what should be promoted or encouraged, pursued or saved for a more opportune time.

The Board, of which I am vice president, conducts itself in a professional manner with the advice of a local lawyer.

We are incorporated as a not for profit corporation and governed by a constitution adopted by the members at an Annual General Meeting.

In addition, there are various standing committees that attend to particular ongoing activities, such as the computer club or the travel club.

Ad Hoc committees are formed to deal with specific projects, such as the Christmas Dinner, then dissolve when the project is completed.

Membership is increasing as is attendance for daytime and extended hours, even though the holiday months of summer are traditionally slow. As always, we welcome all who are 55 years or older.

York Region Transit has a bus stop close to the centre for those who use public transport, and we hope to have the stop protected with a new bus shelter, before the cold weather gets here.

This development originated with a request made about two weeks ago, by Robena Reed to Board Director, Barbara Stoecklin, who made a request to Piragal Thiru of York Region Transit.

Piragal responded to the request immediately, saying he will include this location in the year 2006 list for stop upgrades, and for further review and action.

Since I wrote the above, I have visited York Region Transit with Barbara and Robena, and had an excellent informative meeting with Irene McNeil. I can now report that we expect concrete to be poured for the shelter base, late in October and the shelter to be erected in early November. Good stuff, York Region Transit!



MP REPORT

By Belinda Stronach
(Newmarket-Aurora)

During last year's federal election campaign, some of you may recall that I made a campaign pledge to donate my MP's salary, if elected, with the proceeds intended to benefit youth in our community.

Shortly after being elected as the Member of Parliament for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, I established a trust fund and have been depositing my MP's salary into the trust fund.

Last year, my constituency team and I created something called the "Give Back" award - a cash prize awarded to a male and female student at every high school in Aurora and Newmarket.

This award is presented each year to students in their final year of high school who have given back to their community and who have made a positive contribution to fellow students and citizens.

The student winners are selected by their schools. In June, eight Aurora high school students each received a \$500 bursary and a certificate acknowledging their volunteer contributions.

Please join me in congratulating Alyshia Crawford and Richard Abrich from Aurora High School; Caroline Roszell and Marc Bonomo from Cardinal Carter Catholic High School; Julien Roberge and Jessica Petrucci from Ecole Secondaire Catholique Renaissance; and Arthur Wong and Johnny Lin from St. Andrew's College.

In the fall, two students from Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School here in town will also receive "Give Back" awards.

Many of us here in Aurora have watched with interest the construction of the new State Farm Insurance head office at the corner of Wellington Street and Highway 404.

On July 25th, I had the honour of addressing 250 State Farm employees at the newly opened head office.

On behalf of the residents of Aurora, I welcomed the company to our town and congratulated them on their striking new head office, which will become a gateway building for Aurora.

Backpacks needed for some students

At least one location in Aurora will accept backpacks for students this school year as the York Region Food Network (YRFN) again seeks the public's help in supplying school supplies to kids whose families can't afford them.

Healing Hands Chiropractic and Wellness Centre on Wellington Street East has been named as a drop-off location for the supplies.

Backpacks and supplies may also be dropped off at the Aurora Food Pantry on Yonge Street.

While sorting through bins and shelves of school supplies and picking up the latest stylish backpack may be fun for some, not everyone can afford to stuff backpacks with colouring pencils and calculators.

According to YRFN officials, the expense of a new backpack can be beyond the budget for the families of some York Region residents.

They recommend parents take kids 'back to school' shopping, for someone in need.

Pick up a backpack, fill it with school supplies, like math sets and scientific calculators for the high school student, or stuff a backpack to suit the needs of a younger student.

Colouring pencils, rulers, erasers and pencil sharpeners are just a few of the items teachers are requesting for the elementary school students, YRFN officials said.

All donations will be distributed to local food banks in

time for families to pick them up before the school year begins.

Aurora's Elizabeth Brims, Executive Director of York Region Food Network has witnessed the impact a backpack donation can make to a family.

"Backpack donations can make a difference between parents having to go without food for three days just so their child can go to school, as all other children do, with a backpack in hand," she said.

For more information about the York Region Food Network Backpack program contact Catherine Cook, Program Coordinator at 905-967-0372 or email her at catherinec@yrfn.ca.

"I'm relaxed because everything I need is right here. Plus, there's always someone available if I need help."

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Students receive "give back" award

I also talked about the need for a driving focus on education, innovation, training and lifelong learning in order to maintain our living standards and prosperity.

Special thanks to Aurora resident and State Farm employee Lisa Cruickshank for all her work in organizing the event, as well as to Carla Sweeny and Jennifer Scott, co-chairs of the Women's Network (WNET) at State Farm, and Karen Mican, the Senior Leadership Advisor to WNET.

Finally, be sure to take part in the upcoming "Battle of Yonge Street" - the hometown favourite Aurora Tigers versus their cross-town rivals, the Newmarket Hurricanes.

My office is presenting the event, which takes place Thursday, September 7, to help raise money for the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre.

M&M Meats is sponsoring the tailgate barbecue from 6 to 7 p.m.

The on-ice action gets underway at 7.30 p.m. at the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket.

Tickets are available at the constituency office or at The Auroran office on Mary Street and cost \$10 for an adult and \$6 for seniors and students.

All proceeds will go toward the Cancer Care Program and Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake.

So come on out in support of a good cause and cheer on the Tigers!

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RUMOURS AND RAMBLINGS

Is Frank's legacy still alive in Aurora?

Frank Jones, an employee of Sterling Drug, was an avid hockey enthusiast and a long time volunteer in the Aurora Minor Hockey Association.

He died much too early but his legacy lived on in the form of the Frank Jones Memorial Award.

The award was presented annually to the AMHA Coach of the Year.

In 1987, the first recipient of the award was house league coach Doug MacPherson, a veteran of 10 house league seasons.

In receiving the award, MacPherson said the coach doesn't make the team, the team makes the coach.

Is the award still presented?

WELLINGTON STREET CROSSING

Old time motorists in Aurora will remember the Wellington Street rail crossing prior to August, 1990, when there were four sets of tracks with wood planking that made auto repairmen happy.

Due to the many complaints CN Rail agreed to remove three tracks and rubberize the fourth to improve the Wellington Street crossing, which was closed for three Sundays while the work was carried out.

The special rubber roadway to replace the wooden planking was designed to greatly reduce the impact on vehicles travelling over the tracks.

Because Wellington Street was a regional road, the region was required to pay \$16,500 for the rubber system to be installed by CN Rail, plus \$5,000 to repave the roadway after the tracks were removed and motorists breathed a sigh of relief.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Driver distraction while using a cellular phone is said to be a major cause of traffic accidents today.

If you can believe it, back in 1913 windshield wipers were feared by some as a driver distraction.

It was claimed their rhythmic motion would lull drivers

into trances.

Car radios were suspect in the 1920s.

Then in the 1950s, fast food outlets became the rage and more and more drivers drove while munching on a hamburger or enjoying a hot coffee. Today it's the cell phone. What next?

WHAT HAPPENED?

In 1906, there was a grand parade through the streets of Toronto from City Hall to Queen's Park with more than 1,500 people wearing badges and carrying signs that read "Cheap Power".

That march was the start of a movement that led to the formation of Ontario Hydro with Adam Beck, one of the marchers, as its head.

He ran Hydro as his own fiefdom at arm's length from meddlesome politicians.

He did what he wanted and the Legislature approved.

In 1991 it was time to get the marchers out again as the Darlington Nuclear Plant was running about six years behind schedule and 380 per cent over budget.

Originally planned to cost \$2 billion the price had escalated to \$13.5 billion and was still climbing.

When Darlington was first proposed in the early 1970s, it was seen as Hydro's saviour in providing Ontario with cheap electricity for years to come.

But because of the delays and cost, Hydro Chairman Marc Eliesen acknowledged that the skyrocketing costs were the reason Ontarians could expect a double-digit rate increase in each of the next three years. What happened to cheap power?

DON'T BLAME AURORA

Back in March, 1995, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters requested that Aurora Council support the organization's fight against the federal government's long arm gun control legislation as an unnecessary wasteful burden on taxpayers.

While some members of council expressed support for the government's gun registry, Councillor Chris Sorley threw cold water on the issue with the question about what guns had to do with municipal government resulting in council receiving the request and taking no action.

IT'S SUMMER VACATION TIME

The schools are closed and students are no doubt enjoying their summer break from classrooms, books and exams.

During the school year, council receives requests from parents about a school crossing guard at this or that intersection for the safety of the young children crossing the road to get to and from school.

Nobody wants to see a child hurt crossing the road on their way to school, or the park, the library or the ice cream store, but school crossing guards can't be everywhere, so parents must assume some responsibility in teaching their children the rules of the road.

By erecting more stop signs and hiring more crossing guards, possibly council may be lulling children into a sense of false security, as they assume motorists will stop for them as they cross a roadway.

A question that needs an answer is what do kids do on weekends and especially during the summer holidays, as the stop signs and pedestrian crosswalks are still there but there are no crossing guards?

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York Regional Council favours incineration plan

In June last year York and Durham Regions formed a partnership to undertake an individual Environmental Assessment to study residual waste management for the two regions.

A Joint Waste Management Group was established with council and citizen representatives from both regions serving as a Steering Committee.

Last March the Ministry of the Environment approved the terms of reference for the study and consultants were engaged for the selection of a long-term processing system to minimize the need for landfill.

Last May a draft recommendation to use a thermal process, energy from waste, incineration or gasification, was circulated for comment to more than 400 government and non-government organizations, public information sessions were held and a telephone poll carried out on the preferred alternative.

At the time York Regional Council adopted a Waste Diversion Strategy for the region and local municipalities setting out a target of 65 per cent waste diversion

by 2008 increasing to 75 per cent in the longer term.

The results of the consultative process indicated that about 80 of respondents agreed with the consultant's recommendation that the preferred solution was thermal treatment and recovery of energy.

Several respondents opposed the recommendation and recommended expansion of the diversion system while others preferred to export waste to landfill sites outside the region.

A report was submitted to the June meeting of regional council recommending that a \$250 million "Thermal Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste and Recovery of Energy" be adopted.

It was also recommended that "Thermal Treatment of Solid Recovered Fuel" be fur-

ther considered as an alternative and staff and consultants proceed with consultation with the public and agencies.

In a letter to The Auroran in June, following his attendance at one of the public information sessions, Klaus Wehrenberg wrote that while he somewhat agreed with building a thermal facility to process the residue waste after recycling and composting, he was uncomfortable.

He said the operation in Peel provided that private operators are to be paid a penalty if Peel Region didn't deliver a certain tonnage of waste which could result in creating more waste.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the report and the recommendations with some arguing that it was the only way to go and there was a need to move for-

ward, while others argued for more public education and diversion.

On an 18-2 vote, York adopted the recommendation with the addition that staff investigate a zero waste policy used in Vancouver.

Currently the region sends about 960 tonnes of garbage on 30 trucks to land fill sites daily from Tuesday to Friday with eight trucks going to southwestern Ontario and 22 trucks to Michigan at a cost of about \$50,000 per day.

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DEATH NOTICE

BREVIK, Margaret Pond - After a brief illness at Southlake Health Centre, Newmarket, on Thursday, July 27, 2006, in her 57th year. Margaret, beloved daughter of Einar and the late Catharine. Margaret will be deeply missed by many family and friends here in Canada and Norway. Service held at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South (north-east corner of Yonge and Industrial Parkway, 905-727-5421), Aurora on Saturday, July 29, 2006, at 11 a.m. in the chapel. Memorial donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or the C.N.I.B. would be appreciated by the family.



Thompson Funeral Home

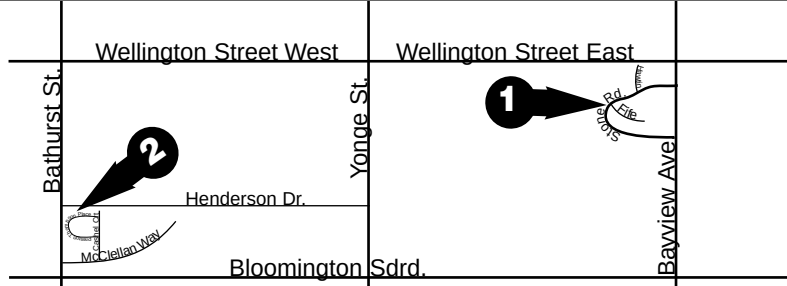
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- 3) 177 Murray Dr. 8 - 12
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